

FAMILY PORTRAITS

seems like
no matter who you are
good or bad
alive or dead
rich poor talented
or not
the older relatives
aunts and grandmothers
always have old photographs
of real cute kids.
looking at me when i was three
i say to myself
that kid could never grow up
and do the things i've done.

CONVERSATION PIECE

i say
earl flynn
instead of
errol
and steer
instead of stir.
she never
forgets
to mention it.

ONE OF THE SILLY THINGS

i'll kiss her
stick my tongue down her throat
even lick her all over
but the idea
of using her toothbrush
just makes me cringe.

LEARNING SOMETHING

i told her
excited by the
wonders of nature
about these strange
little birds i saw
in the yard
the other day.
they looked like
miniature cardinals
but were a brown
grayish color
and making a lot of racket.
silly me
it turns out
they were baby cardinals.